

Social Security is not just a commitment we made to our seniors, it is a commitment we made to families. It allowed so many seniors to remain financially independent long after retirement, ensuring that they would not become a financial strain for their children.

We want future generations to have every opportunity. The best education, quality health care and a good job, and we want them to know that programs like Social Security will be there when they retire.

And yet after all the rhetoric we have heard about protecting Social Security, the Republican Congress has failed to enact legislation to extend Social Security by even one day. I know that there are many grandmothers like my own who are looking to us right now. Let us work together to make it happen.

BOTH PARTIES WANT TO HOLD SOCIAL SECURITY SACROSANCT

(Mr. TANCREDO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, it is truly heartening to hear the discussion today about Social Security; both sides talking about Social Security, both sides talking about saving Social Security, both sides extolling the virtues of holding Social Security sacrosanct. Madam Speaker, that is the first time those words have been heard for the last 40-some years.

When the Democrats had control of this place, all that time they spent every single dime of Social Security on programs and today they are here arguing about who is saving more. Well, I do not care which one is right, the fact is we have the argument now on our terms, in our court. The debate is now on our side.

How much and who is going to do more to save the Social Security fund is great. It bodes well for America. Because over the next 10 years it will reduce the rate of growth of government by over \$2 trillion, if we can keep the debate focused there.

Let us not get away from the debate. Remember, saving Social Security is not just good for Social Security, it is good for America.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET BILL IS OUT OF TOUCH WITH NEEDS OF AMERICANS

(Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Madam Speaker, as we consider the Republican budget bill, foremost in our mind should be the realization that this bill is out of touch with the needs of mil-

lions of Americans. This bill provides nothing for Social Security. This bill provides nothing for Medicare. This bill ostensibly can hurt every single family in our Nation.

Social Security has conveyed a message of hope and a measure of financial security for all Americans. It represents the only income for millions of elderly Americans all across the Nation, and yet this bill does not extend the life of Social Security by one single day.

The bill fails to provide one penny for a Medicare prescription drug benefit. As we stand at the portal of the millennium, it is not acceptable that our elderly should be forced to choose between food and medicine.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to keep Social Security sound, and I urge them to keep Medicare sound and address the needs of all Americans.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY IS ONE OF REPUBLICANS' FOUR-POINT PRIORITIES

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, since 1937, American workers have been forced, through no choice of their own, to pay into the Social Security Trust Fund. Today, 75 percent of the American people pay more in payroll taxes than they do in Federal income taxes.

In light of that, it seems to me that there is a very important obligation that needs to be met, and that obligation is one that the Speaker of the House, when he stood here on the opening day of the 106th Congress, made very clear. He said that we, in fact, were going to save Social Security and Medicare, and that is one of the four-point priorities that we put forth.

Now, we very much want to do that, and I believe, if one looks at the appropriations bills that we have been able to pass in this House, including the most recent one which completed our work, we were able to do it for the first time since 1967 without dipping into the anticipated surplus for Social Security.

That is something that underscores our very strong commitment to make sure that the United States Government stands behind that obligation which it forces the American people to pay into. We are doing the right thing in pursuing that.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET PLAN SHOULD BE RENAMED PORK PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, Al Capone can claim he is a crime fighter, but it does not make it so. Republicans can claim they are really trying to pro-

tect Social Security, but it does not make it so.

Here we are the second day of the second month of the new fiscal year, and the majority party, months late, has just passed its final appropriations bill, albeit with no effort to be bipartisan.

There are just a few problems with this gimmickry Republican budget plan. First, the plan does not add one year, not one month, not one week, not one day, not even one hour to the Social Security or the Medicare trust funds.

Second problem with their plan. It hurts, in some ways, every American family. Head Start, cut; college loans, cuts; defense readiness, cut below the President's request. Even worse, the Republican budget has rules crafted in a way that actually cuts bone marrow in order to protect pork. Perhaps the Republican budget plan should be renamed the 1999 Pork Protection Act.

Third problem they have is their numbers do not add up. Their plan shows more gimmickry than a French chef. We should reject their plan.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP MUST COME CLEAN ON SOCIAL SEC- URITY

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, Halloween is over, let us stop playing those tricks and let us give the Americans the treat that they deserve, the truth. The truth is that the Republicans have exceeded their own caps by \$31 billion, and we all recognize and we all know that.

We also recognize that we have dipped into \$17 billion into Social Security already. Apparently, the approach is if they tell a lie often enough, people will believe them. Well, this data did not come from the administration, this data did not come from the Democrat Party, this data came from the Republican accountants at the CBO; \$17 billion into Social Security already.

So what is wrong with this picture? We have a golden opportunity to work in a collective manner. And the beauty of it is that we are all talking about Social Security, so, apparently, we have some interest in that area.

The leadership must come clean though and tell the truth. There are many worthy programs that we have, and we have had some major national disasters. We have the farm crisis, and there are some other needs to look at realistically in the cap, but let us tell the truth. Halloween is over.

REPUBLICANS BOAST SORRY RECORD OF NONACHIEVEMENT

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1